



## Public Scholarship Project Social Justice Research Fellowship

Engage@EMU is delighted to announce the **Kirk and Sharon Profit Social Justice Research Fund**, a \$3500 award for EMU full-time lecturers, tenure track and/or tenured faculty to engage in public research focused on issues of justice (racial, gender, religious, economic, etc.). This award may also include some limited travel funding.

[Application available here.](#)

### **Background**

Imagining America (artists and scholars and public life), a consortium of universities and colleges defines public scholarship as **scholarly or creative activity that joins serious intellectual endeavor with a commitment to public practice and public consequence**. It includes:

- Scholarly and creative work jointly planned and carried out by university and community partners;
- Intellectual work that produces a public good;
- Artistic, critical, and historical work that contributes to public debates;
- Efforts to expand the place of public scholarship in higher education, including the development of new programs and research on the successes of such efforts.
  - [“Scholarship in Public,”](#) the Report of the Tenure Team Initiative of Imagining America

As clarified by IUPUI, Public Scholarship when “*contrasted with one-way applications of faculty expertise to community problems, public scholarship (instead) frames and addresses issues in ways that result in meaningful public application, or transformation, and promotes community-engaged methods of discovery and dissemination of gained knowledge.*” (IUPUI)

**The Social Justice Fellowship program** will provide individual or a team of EMU full-time lecturers, tenure track and/or tenured faculty an opportunity to engage in public research focused on issues of justice (racial, gender, religious, economic, etc.). The Social Justice Fellowship reinforces and elevates EMU’s Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement as well as EMU’s University mission, “*to benefit the local and global communities.*”

### **2020 Fellowship**

In partnership with **EMU’s Center for Jewish Studies** this Social Justice Fellowship will focus on addressing social justice and/or injustices related to the Jewish experience,

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including, but not limited to: Jewish interrelations with the Civil Rights movement; Jews and Labor Movement; Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Relations; Jews and the struggle for refugee rights; Jews and Education; etc.

This Fellowship is funded through the newly developed Kirk and Sharon Profit Social Justice Research Fund. This pilot fellowship is also being supported by Engage@EMU and the EMU Center for Jewish Studies.

As potential fellows prepare to submit a Letter of Intent, common understanding and language of social justice is imperative. For clarity, social justice is defined as the following:

*“Social Justice refers to a concept in which equity or justice is achieved in every aspect of society rather than in only some aspects or for some people. A world organized around social justice principles affords individuals and groups fair treatment as well as an impartial share or distribution of the advantages and disadvantages within a society.”*

Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice, Adams, Bell, Griffin, 2nd ed., Routledge 2007

### **SJ Fellowship Application Process**

To apply for the fellowship faculty are first asked to submit a [Letter of Intent \(LOI\)](#) to include the following (no more than 2 pages).

- **Key research questions and/or outcome:** Identify or clarify any known research gap or public concern.
- **Public Impact:** How might the research impact the public short term and/or long term?
- **Public Good(s):** Describe expected results from the project (study, paper, exhibit, tool kit, curriculum, workshop design, installation etc.) and benefits both to your work and the public/community (local, regional, state, national) at large.
- **Social Justice Focus:** describe the social justice focus, how the focus is relevant to your own research and identified community challenges.

Special attention will be paid to submissions that indicate an interest in collaboration, including, but not limited to work with community leaders, elected officials, public educators, school districts, non-profit organizations, think-tanks, consortiums, government municipalities, other colleges and universities, etc.

The LOI is due by November 22, 2019.

### **Timeline, Funding and Logistics for Pilot:**

- Request for letters/proposals: November 2019

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- Fellows Selected: December 2019
- Research fellowships run from Winter 2020–Spring 2020
- Public Salon Presentation: Spring /Summer or Fall 2020
- Funding: \$3500.00, additional resources for travel may be available. Application review team: Engage Director, ORDA, Kirk Profit, Center for Jewish Studies, and Advancement.

*Much work around public /engaged scholarship at universities is based upon research and directives by Checkoway and Stanton. Such articles are available here:*

Stanton, Timothy K. “New Times Demand New Scholarship: Opportunities and Challenges for Civic Engagement at Research Universities.” *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*, volume 3, 2008, pgs. 19-42.

Checkoway, Barry. “Social Justice Approach to Community Development.” *Journal of Community Practice*. Volume 21, Issue 4, 2013, pgs. 472-486.

[Imagining America](#) has several resources relevant to public scholarship and social justice related research.